United Nations A/71/477

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 November 2016
English
Original: French

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 27

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Cécile **Mballa Eyenga** (Cameroon)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2016, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled:

"Advancement of women"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 7th to 11th meetings, from 10 to 12 October 2016, and considered proposals and took action on the item at its 44th, 46th, 50th, 53rd, 54th and 57th meetings, on 3, 8, 17, 21 and 23 November 2016. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions (A/71/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (A/71/209);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (A/71/219);

[1] See A/C.3/71/SR.7, A/C.3/71/SR.8, A/C.3/71/SR.9, A/C.3/71/SR.10, A/C.3/71/SR.11, A/C.3/71/SR.44, A/C.3/71/SR.46, A/C.3/71/SR.50, A/C.3/71/SR.53, A/C.3/71/SR.54 and A/C.3/71/SR.57.

16-21131 (E) 151216

Please recycle

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/71/223);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying efforts to end obstetric fistula (A/71/306);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/71/398).

(g) Letter dated 22 November 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Chile and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/71/7).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 10 October, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); and the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Programme), United Nations Population Fund made introductory statements and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Chile and Mexico.

5. Also at 7th meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made an oral report.

6. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, the European Union, Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Lithuania, Slovenia and Norway.

7. Also at the 7th meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women, responded to the questions and comments made by delegations.

8. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, made an introductory statement and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of Chile, Egypt, Australia, Liechtenstein, Spain, Brazil, Estonia, Norway, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Czechia, Canada, Portugal, Maldives, Denmark, Slovenia, Argentina, the Russian Federation and Israel, as well as the observers of the European Union and the State of Palestine.

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.14/Rev.1 and the amendment thereto contained in document A/C.3/71/L.55

9. At its 57th meeting, on 23 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/C.3/71/L.14/Rev.1), which replaced draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.14, submitted by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Benin, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, Germany, Guinea-Bissau,

Hungary, Iceland, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda and the United States.

10. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines made a statement.

11. Subsequently, Andorra, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Action on the amendment contained in document A/C.3/71/L.55

12. At the 57th meeting, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.14/Rev.1, submitted by the Sudan, contained in document A/C.3/71/L.55.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of the Sudan made a statement.

14. Also at the 57th meeting, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected document A/C.3/71/L.55 by informing the Committee that the amendment was to delete the fifteenth preambular paragraph in draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.14/Rev.1.[2]

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment, as orally corrected, by a recorded vote of 106 to 19, with 32 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen.

Against:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New

[2] See A/C.3/71/SR.57.

Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Angola, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia

16. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Liechtenstein (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), Slovakia (on behalf of the European Union) and Chile; after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Egypt and Morocco.

Action on draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.14/Rev.1

17. At the 57th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 34, draft resolution I).

18. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Sudan; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation and Burundi.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.3/71/L.15 and Rev.1

19. At the 46th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation" (A/C.3/71/L.15). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, China, Lebanon, Palau and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 50th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/71/L.15/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.15 and Italy. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia , Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

21. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Burkina Faso on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

22. Also at the 50th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 34, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.3/71/L.16 and Rev.1

23. At the 44th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula" (A/C.3/71/L.16). Subsequently, China, El Salvador, Mongolia, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

24. At its 53rd meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/71/L.16/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.16 and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Japan, Lebanon, Palau and Paraguay. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

25. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Senegal on behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

26. Also at its 53rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.16/Rev.1 (see para. 34, draft resolution III).

27. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer of the Holy See; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Slovakia (on behalf of the European Union), Norway, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Iceland (also on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Liechtenstein, Mexico and New Zealand), Senegal and India.

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.21/Rev.1

28. At its 54th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: domestic violence" (A/C.3/71/L.21/Rev.1), submitted by Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Palau, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United States.

29. At the same meeting, the representative of France made a statement and orally revised the tenth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.[3]

30. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechia , Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

31. Also at the 54th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.21/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 34, draft resolution IV).

32. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Saint Lucia (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Egypt (also on behalf of Algeria, Cameroon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen), Yemen, Djibouti, Mexico, Qatar, Australia (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and New Zealand), Iraq, Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States, as well as by the observer of the Holy See.

E. Draft decision proposed by the Chair of the Committee

33. At its 57th meeting, on 23 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the documents considered in connection with the agenda item on the advancement of women (see para. 35).

[3] See A/C.3/71/SR.54.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

34. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes a serious crime and a grave offence to human dignity and physical integrity, a violation and abuse of human rights and a challenge to sustainable development and requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes measures to prevent such trafficking, to prosecute and punish the traffickers and to protect the victims of such trafficking and a criminal justice response proportionate to the serious nature of the offence,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[7] and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[8] as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and the Human Rights Council on the issue,

Recognizing the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into force on 25 December 2003 and which provided, for the first time, an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of victims and the prosecution of the perpetrators,

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[8] Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.

Welcoming the outcome of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna from 17 to 21 October 2016, at which the Conference decided to continue the process to establish a review mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[9]

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons in order to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] recognizing its integrated and indivisible nature, and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; the eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour; and the ending of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, all forms of violence against and torture of children,

Recognizing the importance of a revitalized global partnership to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the implementation of the Goals and targets related to ending violence against women and girls and human trafficking, and in this regard taking note with appreciation of Alliance 8.7[11] and of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children,

Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, entitled the "New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants",[12] in which it recognized that refugees and migrants in large movements are at greater risk of being trafficked and of being subjected to forced labour,

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010,

Recognizing the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, including of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[10] Resolution 70/1.

[11] A/71/223, para. 52.

[12] Resolution 71/1.

Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of the Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203), of the International Labour Organization,

Welcoming, in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session,[13] the commitment of Governments to ensure that the rights and specific needs of women and girls affected and displaced by trafficking in persons are addressed in national and international plans, strategies and responses,

Noting with appreciation the steps taken, including by the human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on violence against women, its causes and consequences, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and other relevant special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council involved in human trafficking issues and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, and by United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the crime of trafficking in persons, and encouraging them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Noting the renewal by the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-sixth session, of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[14] and the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[15] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, to investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and empower victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, including to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and recognizing that trafficking in persons disproportionately affects women and girls and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

---

[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 7* (E/2016/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[14] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to effectively differentiate between and respond to the risks faced by women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach into all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further that pervasive gender inequality, poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, gender-based violence, discrimination and marginalization and persistent demand for trafficked women and girls are among the underlying causes that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking,

Recognizing the need to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand, which fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking,

Recognizing also the heightened vulnerability to trafficking of women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations, including in conflict and post-conflict environments, natural disasters and other emergency environments, as well as the devastating consequences for women and girls in such circumstances, and noting in this regard the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change resulting from the Nansen Initiative, while recognizing that not all States are participating in them,

Recognizing further the need to reinforce efforts regarding the provision of relevant documents, such as birth registration documents, in order to lower the risk of being trafficked and to help to identify victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing and combating trafficking in women and girls and to protecting and assisting the victims of human trafficking remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt and implement adequate legislation and other measures and to continue improving the collection of reliable data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors and of statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing also that further work is required both to better understand the link between migration and trafficking in persons and to develop more effective responses to eliminate the risk of trafficking in the migration process in order to, inter alia, further efforts to protect women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Concerned about the use of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of recruiting for the exploitation of the prostitution of others, including for exploiting women and children and for child pornography, including sexual abuse material, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as for forced marriage and forced labour, while acknowledging the role that information and communications

technologies play in reducing the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, including by empowering women and children to report such abuses,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international standards,

Noting with concern that women and girls are also vulnerable to the risk of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, and in this regard taking note of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 25/1, entitled "Preventing and combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal",[16] adopted by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion, as well as their origin, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting with concern that some of the demand fostering sexual exploitation, exploitative labour and the illegal removal of organs is met by trafficking in persons, and recognizing that human trafficking is fuelled by high profits for traffickers and demand that fosters all forms of exploitation,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, owing to pervasive and persistent gender inequality, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms in cases of the violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Taking note of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[17] adopted in April 2015, which expresses the importance of implementing a victim-oriented approach to prevent and counter all forms of trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2]

[16] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 10* (E/2016/30), chap. I, sect. D.

[17] Resolution 70/174, annex.

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and civil society organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, coordinated and coherent efforts and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security and privacy of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights and dignity of the victims,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[18] which provides information on measures by States and activities within the United Nations system to tackle trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the information submitted by Member States and United Nations entities on measures and activities taken to combat trafficking in women and girls, and urges Member States and United Nations entities that have not done so to submit the requested information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;[19]

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[20] and the Convention on the

[18] A/71/223.

[19] A/71/303 and A/HRC/32/41.

[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[23] as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)[22] and the Protocol thereto, the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81),[23] the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),[24] the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111),[25] the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),[26] the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),[27] the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181),[28] the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),[29] and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[30] and the activities outlined therein;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to prevent and address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome document of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and calls for its effective implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building, by the United Nations and the international community;

9. *Encourages* the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of trafficking in women and girls at its sixty-first session, within the framework of the priority theme for 2017, "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work";

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to observe the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, in the context of the need to raise awareness of the situation of victims of trafficking in persons and for the promotion and protection of their rights;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[22] Ibid., vol. 39, No. 612.
[23] Ibid., vol. 54, No. 792.
[24] Ibid., vol. 120, No. 1616.
[25] Ibid., vol. 362, No. 5181.
[26] Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.
[27] Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.
[28] Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.
[29] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.
[30] Resolution 64/293.

rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

12. *Welcomes* the continued focus given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ending violence against women and to increasing women's access to economic opportunities, as well as its work on building effective partnerships for the empowerment of women, which will contribute to the efforts to combat trafficking in persons;

13. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to prevent and address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to put in place or to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

14. *Acknowledges* the drafting of the basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons;[11]

15. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls by, inter alia, enhancing their participation and leadership in society, including through education, economic empowerment and promoting an increase in the number of women assuming decision-making roles in both the public and private sectors, and to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate preventive measures to address the underlying causes as well as risk factors that increase vulnerability to human trafficking, including poverty and gender inequality, particularly gender-based discrimination and violence, and the persistent demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for exploitation, including in prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation, with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and civil measures;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence and to include the prevention of the trafficking of affected women and girls in all such national, regional and international initiatives;

18. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a

[11] A/69/269, annex.

comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

19. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the prevention of and responses to trafficking in persons continue to take into account the specific needs of women and girls and their participation in and contribution to all phases of preventing and responding to trafficking, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation;

20. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, including awareness-raising campaigns against trafficking and modern slavery targeted at groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of trafficking, as well as at those who may fuel the demand for the exploitation of trafficked persons and/or their labour;

21. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

22. *Urges* Governments to strengthen measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions, including legislative measures and other relevant policies and programmes;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote their global campaign urging travellers to support the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and girls;

24. *Urges* Governments to develop age-appropriate educational and training programmes and policies aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

25. *Encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,[12] to address

[12] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, the Agreement on the Cooperation of

the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, data disaggregated by sex and age, specific data collection and other technical capacities and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

26. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with the due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

27. *Urges* Governments, in accordance with their respective legal systems, to take all appropriate measures, including through policies and legislation, to ensure that victims of trafficking are protected from prosecution or punishment for acts those victims have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of having been subjected to trafficking and that the victims do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted or punished as a direct consequence of their illegal entry or residence;

28. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing or strengthening a national mechanism, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to anti-trafficking policies and measures, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, underlying causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors;

29. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to cooperate with international, regional and national mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons, in consultation with Governments, relevant treaty bodies, special procedures, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other sources, including victims of trafficking or their representatives, as appropriate;

30. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, from within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the

---

the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Trafficking in Persons, Human Organs and Tissues, the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour, to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

31. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including sexual and reproductive health-care services that include affordable treatment, care and support services for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, free of stigma and discrimination, as well as comprehensive information and voluntary counselling, and to take measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims in ways which protect their privacy and identity;

32. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and civil society organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, rights and responsibilities with respect to migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

33. *Strongly urges* Governments to ensure coherence between the laws on and measures responding to migration, labour and trafficking to protect the human rights of migrant women and girls throughout the migration and employment process as well as the repatriation process, when applicable, and to provide effective protection against trafficking;

34. *Invites* States, together with relevant United Nations entities, to undertake further research into the links between migration and trafficking to guide the development of age- and gender-sensitive policies and programmes that address the vulnerability of women and girl migrants;

35. *Encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

36. *Invites* the business sector to consider the adoption of ethical codes of conduct to ensure decent work and to prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster trafficking;

37. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims in ways which protect their privacy and identity;

38. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments

to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers, health service providers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

39. *Invites* Member States to provide training for law enforcement and border control officials, as well as medical personnel, in identifying potential cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal;

40. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls, and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear and with due regard for the protection of their privacy and their identity, and are available when required to the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

41. *Also invites* Governments to intensify efforts aimed at the speedy disposition of cases of trafficking in persons and, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms for combating trafficking in persons;

42. *Further invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

43. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

44. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels, and in this regard takes note of the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

45. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

46. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and to provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officials and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

47. *Calls upon* Governments, and encourages relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel about the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

48. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights[11] to include information and disaggregated statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

49. *Invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report that compiles information on successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.

[11] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Draft resolution II
Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 67/146 of 20 December 2012, 68/146 of 18 December 2013 and 69/150 of 18 December 2014, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007,[1] 52/2 of 7 March 2008[2] and 54/7 of 12 March 2010[3] and Human Rights Council resolutions 27/22 of 26 September 2014[4] and 32/21 of 1 July 2016,[5] and all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration on Human Rights,[6]

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[7] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[8] and all the relevant conventions, together with the optional protocols thereto, as appropriate, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration[9] and Platform for Action,[10] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[11] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[12] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[13] and their 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[14] and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit[15] and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", and those made in the outcome document of the

---

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 7* (E/2007/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[2] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[3] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/69/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

[5] Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[6] Resolution 217 A (III).

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[10] Ibid., annex II.

[11] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[12] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[13] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[14] Resolution 55/2.

[15] See resolution 60/1.

United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[16]

Recognizing the role of regional and subregional instruments and mechanisms in the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation, where they exist,

Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the elimination and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,

Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Advancement of women",[17]

Recognizing that female genital mutilation constitutes irreparable, irreversible harm and an act of violence against women and girls that impairs their human rights, and recognizing also that it affects about 200 million women and girls worldwide and that each year an estimated further 4 million girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world, which can be an impediment to the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation is a harmful practice, constituting a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, increasing their vulnerability to HIV, as well as Hepatitis A and B, and possibly having adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes, as well as fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, and that the elimination of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including girls and boys, women and men,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation is inherently linked to deep-rooted, negative norms, stereotypes, perceptions and customs that are obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights,

Concerned about evidence of an increase in the incidence of female genital mutilation being carried out by medical personnel in all regions in which it is practised,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory and stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and

[16] Resolution 70/1.

[17] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2012/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Stressing that men and boys play an important role in the acceleration of progress in preventing and eliminating harmful practices such as female genital mutilation by being agents of change,

Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the Global Database on Violence against Women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilation,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilation, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities,[18] announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

Commending the continued efforts and actions undertaken by States, individually and collectively, regional organizations and United Nations agencies for the elimination of female genital mutilation as well as the implementation of its resolution 69/150,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and underscoring the importance of its implementation with a view to eliminating female genital mutilation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[19]

Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts and the focus on the elimination of female genital mutilation, the practice continues to persist in all regions of the world, and is often on the rise for migrant and refugee women and girls,

Deeply concerned also that a tremendous gap in resources continues to exist and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[7] as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[20] the Programme of Action of the International

[18] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Development Programme, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women and World Health Organization

[19] A/69/211

[20] Resolution 48/104

Conference on Population and Development,[12] the Beijing Platform for Action[10] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[11] and of the special session of the General Assembly on children;[21]

2. *Calls upon* States to place a stronger focus on the development and implementation of comprehensive prevention strategies, including the enhancement of educational campaigns, awareness-raising and formal, non-formal and informal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and men and to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, parliamentarians, health-care providers, civil society, the private sector, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilation, that negatively affect women and girls;

3. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilation, and to engage families, local community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and civil society and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social norms and practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, especially through educational campaigns, including enacting and enforcing legislation, to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to hold perpetrators to account;

5. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the elimination of female genital mutilation, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care and appropriate remedies, and to take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

6. *Further urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing and revising, as appropriate, school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, placing special emphasis on education about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

[21] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

7. *Urges* States to ensure that the protection and provision of support to women and girls subject to, or at risk of, female genital mutilation are an integral part of policies and programmes that address the practice and to provide women and girls with coordinated, specialized, accessible and quality multisectoral prevention and response, including education, as well as legal, psychological, health-care and social services, provided by qualified personnel, consistent with the guidelines of medical ethics;

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilation are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and that they include projected timelines for goals and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all relevant stakeholders and promote their participation, including the participation of affected groups, practising communities and non-governmental organizations, in the development, implementation and evaluation of such plans and strategies;

9. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girls from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

10. *Calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach the general public, relevant professionals, families and communities, including through the media, featuring television and radio discussions about the harmful effect of female genital mutilation and the fact that this practice still exists, as well as about national and international levels of support for the elimination of female genital mutilation;

11. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender-equality principles in providing education and training to families, local community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation;

12. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

13. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of those legislative frameworks;

14. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, harmful practices such as female

genital mutilation, to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice and to reinforce the sharing of good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of the practice at the subregional, regional, and global levels;

15. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation;

16. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilation and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe women or girls are at risk;

17. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilation, programmes that engage local community practitioners of female genital mutilation in community-based initiatives for the elimination of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

18. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilation;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a third phase of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, which will run until 2020, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilation;

20. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilation in a number of countries using a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels, and recalls the goal set out in the United Nations inter-agency statement[18] that female genital mutilation is to be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

21. *Encourages* men and boys to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

22. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system, civil society and all stakeholders to continue to observe 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and to use the day to enhance awareness-raising campaigns and to take concrete actions against female genital mutilation;

23. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and, where appropriate, to collaborate with existing data collection systems, which are crucial for evidence-based legal and policy development, programme design and implementation and the monitoring of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

24. *Acknowledges* that intensifying efforts is urgently needed for the elimination of female genital mutilation and, in this regard also acknowledges the importance of giving the issue due consideration in the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

26. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General that he submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and factors contributing to the practice of female genital mutilation, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

Draft resolution III
Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007, 63/158 of 18 December 2008, 65/188 of 21 December 2010 and 67/147 of 20 December 2012 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula and 69/148 of 18 December 2014 on the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[4] and their reviews, and the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance[5] and the 2005 World Summit,[6] as well as those made in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[7]

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10] recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[11] and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,[12]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[13] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health-care services, early childbearing, child, early and

---

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[5] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.
[6] Resolution 60/1.
[7] Resolution 70/1.
[8] Resolution 217 A (III).
[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[10] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[11] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378, and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex.
[13] A/71/306.

forced marriage, violence against young women and girls and gender inequality as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early childbearing increases the risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery and entails a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, specifically timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing further that adolescent girls are at particular risk of maternal death and morbidity, including obstetric fistula, and concerned that the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19 in many low- and middle-income countries is complications from pregnancy and childbirth and that women aged 30 and older are at increased risk of developing complications and of dying during childbirth,

Recognizing that lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, especially emergency obstetric services, remains among the leading causes of obstetric fistula, leading to ill health and death for women and girls of childbearing age in many regions of the world, and that a dramatic and sustainable scaling-up of quality treatment and health-care services, including high quality emergency obstetric services and also of the number of trained, competent fistula surgeons and midwives, is needed to significantly reduce maternal and newborn mortality and to eradicate obstetric fistula,

Noting that a human rights-based approach to eliminating obstetric fistula and efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula should be underpinned by the principles of, inter alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, non-discrimination and international cooperation,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against women and girls and the violation and abuse of their human rights, which often result in reduced access to education and nutrition, compromising their physical and mental health and well-being and their enjoyment of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and often in their being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, which can increase the risk of obstetric fistula,

Deeply concerned also about the situation of women living with or recovering from obstetric fistula, who are often neglected and stigmatized, which may lead to negative effects on their mental health, resulting in depression and suicide, and are driven deeper into poverty and marginalization,

Recognizing the need to raise awareness among men and adolescent boys and, in this context, to fully engage men and community leaders as strategic partners and allies in the efforts to address and eliminate obstetric fistula,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula led by the United Nations Population Fund, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Deeply concerned that, as the global Campaign to End Fistula completes its twelfth anniversary, while some progress has been made, significant challenges remain that require the intensification of efforts at all levels to end obstetric fistula,

Recognizing, with interest, the Secretary-General's revised Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030), undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies that aim for the highest attainable standards of health and well-being, physical, mental and social, at every age, ending maternal and newborn mortality, which is preventable, and noting that this can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Sustainable Development Goals, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, finance, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health, in close coordination with Member States, based on their needs and priorities, and in this regard welcoming further the commitments to accelerate progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments made by Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and recognizes that the efforts to end obstetric fistula within a generation will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, including Goals 3 and 5;

2. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, early childbearing and child, early and forced marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty and inequality, including gender inequality, remain the main social risk factors and that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and rights of women and girls, and calls upon States, in collaboration with the international community, to take accelerated action to address the situation;

3. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as poverty, lack of or inadequate education for women and girls, lack of access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, early childbearing, child, early and forced marriage and the low status of women and girls;

4. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and

Development,[1] the Beijing Platform for Action[14] and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services with a view to ensuring universal access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing women's empowerment, knowledge and awareness and ensuring equitable access to high-quality appropriate prenatal and delivery care for the prevention of obstetric fistula and the reduction of health inequities, as well as postnatal care for the detection and early management of fistula cases;

5. *Also calls upon* States to ensure equitable coverage and timely access, by means of national plans, policies and programmes, to health-care services, in particular emergency obstetric and newborn care, skilled birth attendance, obstetric fistula treatment and family planning, that is financially and culturally accessible, including in rural and most remote areas;

6. *Further calls upon* States to ensure the right to education of good quality for women and girls, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, including age-appropriate sex education, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

7. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage, including in rural and remote areas, is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to provide intensified technical and financial support, in particular to high-burden countries, to accelerate progress towards the elimination of obstetric fistula within a generation, which can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and ensure that no one is left behind;

9. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks in the public and private sectors, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies to support national efforts and institutional capacity-building to end obstetric fistula and to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas and the poorest urban areas, as well as to ensure that needed funding is increased, predictable and sustained;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners, including the World Health Organization, in the global Campaign to End Fistula in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres and, where necessary, national

[14] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

centres, by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

11. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress to improve maternal health by addressing sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, including midwives, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health-care systems that provide universal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as reflected in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";[2]

12. *Urges* the international community to address the shortage and inequitable distribution of doctors, surgeons, midwives, nurses and other health-care workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

13. *Commends* the commemoration by the international community of 23 May as the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula and the decision to continue to use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness, intensify actions and mobilize support towards ending obstetric fistula;

14. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to end obstetric fistula within a generation by:

(a) Redoubling their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health-care services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by ensuring universal access to skilled attendance at birth and timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care and family planning, as well as appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;

(b) Making greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, and providing support for the development and maintenance of infrastructure, as well as investments in referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal and newborn health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care, with functional quality control and monitoring mechanisms in place for all areas of service delivery;

(c) Supporting the training of doctors and surgeons, nurses and other health-care workers in lifesaving obstetric care, especially midwives, who are the front-line workers in the fight to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal and newborn mortality, including training on fistula prevention, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(d) Ensuring universal access through national policies, plans and programmes that make maternal and newborn health-care services, particularly family planning, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and obstetric fistula treatment, financially accessible, including in rural and remote areas and among the poorest women and girls, through, where appropriate, the establishment and distribution of health-care facilities and trained medical personnel, collaboration with the transport sector for affordable transport options, the promotion of and support for community-based solutions and the provision of incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural and remote areas of qualified health-care professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

(e) Developing, implementing and supporting national and international prevention, care and treatment and socioeconomic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula within a generation, developing further multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated action plans in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to maternal mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, which is preventable, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, high-quality maternal health-care services, and, within countries, incorporating into all sectors of national budgets policy and programmatic approaches to address inequities and reach poor, vulnerable women and girls;

(f) Establishing or strengthening, as appropriate, a national task force for obstetric fistula, led by the Ministry of Health, to enhance national coordination and improve partner collaboration to end obstetric fistula;

(g) Strengthening the capacity of health-care systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases by increasing national budgets for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula, ensuring access to fistula treatment through increased availability of trained, expert fistula surgeons and permanent, holistic fistula services integrated into strategically selected hospitals, thereby addressing the significant backlog of women and girls awaiting surgical repair of fistula, and encouraging communication among fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fundraising and the application of relevant medical standards, including consideration of the use of the World Health Organization manual entitled "Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development", which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment programmes, as appropriate;

(h) Mobilizing funding to provide free or adequately subsidized maternal health-care and obstetric fistula repair and treatment services, including by encouraging networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols to protect women's and children's well-being and survival and to prevent the recurrence of subsequent fistulas by making post-surgery follow-up and the tracking of fistula patients a routine and key component of all fistula programmes, and also to ensure access to elective caesarean sections for fistula survivors who become pregnant again in order to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

(i) Ensuring that all women and girls who have undergone fistula treatment, including the forgotten women and girls whose conditions are deemed incurable or inoperable, are provided with and have access to comprehensive health-care services, holistic social integration services and careful follow-up, including counselling, education, family planning and socioeconomic empowerment, for as long as needed, through, inter alia, skills development and income-generating activities, so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion, and developing linkages with civil society organizations and women's and girls' empowerment programmes so as to help to achieve this goal;

(j) Empowering fistula survivors to contribute to community sensitization and mobilization as advocates for fistula elimination, safe motherhood and newborn survival;

(k) Educating individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increasing awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants and midwives, including women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers;

(l) Enhancing the participation of men and adolescent boys in the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula and further strengthening their involvement as partners, including in the global Campaign to End Fistula;

(m) Strengthening awareness-raising and advocacy, including through the media, to effectively reach families and communities with key messages on fistula prevention and treatment and social reintegration;

(n) Strengthening research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, and their recording in a national register, and by acknowledging obstetric fistula as a nationally notifiable condition, triggering immediate reporting, tracking and follow-up for the purpose of guiding the development and implementation of maternal health programmes and ending fistula within a generation;

(o) Strengthening research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, by conducting up-to-date needs assessments on emergency obstetric and newborn care and for fistula and routine reviews of maternal deaths and near-miss cases as part of a national maternal death surveillance and response system, integrated within national health information systems;

(p) Improving data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing the needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live births and severe health-related complications, so as to address the challenges of improving maternal health;

(q) Providing essential health-care services, equipment and supplies, education, skills training and income-generating projects and support to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

15. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, through the global Campaign to End Fistula, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and to commit themselves to continued efforts to improve maternal health with the aim of eliminating obstetric fistula globally within a generation;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution IV
Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: domestic violence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009, 65/187 of 21 December 2010, 67/144 of 20 December 2012 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, as well as its resolution 69/147 of 18 December 2014 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recalling also its resolution 58/147 of 22 December 2003 and Human Rights Council resolution 29/14 of 2 July 2015, entitled "Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: eliminating domestic violence",[1]

Recalling further all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, specifically those on women and peace and security and on children and armed conflict, and the Economic and Social Council, as well as those of the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, and relevant resolutions and processes of specialized agencies of the United Nations system on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,[6]

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[7] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[8] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[9] the Programme of Action of the International Conference

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 1577, 2171 and 2173, No. 27531, and resolution 66/138, annex.

[7] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[8] Resolution 48/104.

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

on Population and Development,[10] and the outcomes of their review conferences, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[11]

Welcoming the commitment to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[12] and in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session[13] and previous sessions, recognizing that women play a vital role as agents of development, and acknowledging that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recalling the commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, contained in Sustainable Development Goal 5, in particular target 5.2, and taking into account the commitment to leave no one behind,

Deeply concerned about violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, which is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, and its pervasiveness, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce stereotypes and gender inequality and the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres in all regions of the world, and re-emphasizing that violence against women and girls violates their and impairs their full enjoyment of all human rights,

Recognizing that domestic violence remains widespread and affects women of all social strata across the world, and the urgent need to prevent and eliminate such violence, in this connection recognizing also the continuous efforts by relevant parts of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant United Nations entities, agencies and programmes, and noting the endorsement by the World Health Assembly of the global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls and against children,

Recognizing also that domestic violence can encompass but is not limited to the following elements, which can be understood differently in different contexts: battering, sexual abuse of women and girls in the household, incest, dowry-related violence, marital rape, intimate partner violence, femicide, female infanticide, crimes committed against women and girls in the name of so-called "honour", crimes committed in the name of passion, forced sterilization, forced abortion,

[10] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[11] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[12] Resolution 70/1.

[13] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 7* (E/2016/27), chap. I, sect. A.

coercive/forced use of contraception, forced pregnancies, sexual slavery and practices harmful to women and girls such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation,

Recognizing further that violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women, seriously violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls and constitutes a major impediment to their full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making,

Recognizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social and economic policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, impedes the social and economic and therefore the sustainable development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, education, access to justice, health and crime prevention,

Recognizing the particular risk of violence faced by women and girls who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including older women, indigenous and migrant women and girls and women and girls with disabilities, and stressing the urgent need to address violence and discrimination against them,

Recognizing also that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and bearing in mind that armed conflict and other types of armed violence, including terrorism and hostage-taking, still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region, that States and the international community should place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieve the suffering of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law,

Recognizing further that rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict can constitute war crimes and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949[14] and Additional Protocol I thereto,[15] that perpetrators of such violence must be held accountable and that there must be no impunity in this regard,

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[15] Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.

Acknowledging that trafficking in persons is one of the forms of transnational organized crime which exposes women and girls to violence, including domestic violence, and that concerted efforts are needed to combat it, and in this regard stressing that the full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[16] as well as the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[17] will contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence,

Gravely concerned about the unprecedented number of refugees and displaced persons experiencing violence globally, including during their journey from country of origin to country of arrival, and recognizing the particular vulnerabilities of women and girls among refugees, displaced persons and migrants, and their potential exposure to discrimination and exploitation, as well as to sexual, physical, psychological and economic abuse, violence, including domestic violence, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery,

Gravely concerned also that domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, remains the most prevalent and least visible form of violence against women of all social strata across the world, and emphasizing that such violence is a violation, abuse or impairment of the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and, as such, is unacceptable,

Recognizing the serious immediate and long-term implications for physical and psychological health, including sexual and reproductive health, and the effects that domestic violence against women and girls can present for individuals and families across generations,

Recognizing also the negative impact of domestic violence on women in the exercise of their economic and political rights, including through their access to employment, voting and holding public office, resulting in an impediment to women's empowerment and economic independence,

Underscoring the fact that shame, stigma, fear of reprisals and negative economic consequences, such as loss of livelihood or reduced household income, prevent many women and girls from leaving abusive relationships, reporting or acting as witnesses in cases of domestic violence and seeking redress and justice for these crimes,

Deeply concerned about the high level of impunity with regard to gender-related killing of women and girls, also known as femicide in certain regions of the world, and recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including in ending impunity for such crimes,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage places individuals, in particular girls, at risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence, including domestic violence, throughout their lives and

[16] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[17] Resolution 64/293.

constitutes a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, significantly increasing the risk of early, frequent and unintended pregnancy, maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, while increasing vulnerability to all forms of violence, and that every girl and woman at risk of or affected by child, early and forced marriage must have equal access to affordable quality services such as education, counselling, shelter and other social services, psychological, sexual and reproductive health-care services, medical care and legal assistance,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation is a harmful practice and an act of violence against women and girls that impairs their human rights, constituting a serious threat to their health and well-being, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, increasing their vulnerability to HIV and possibly having adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes, as well as fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including girls, boys, women and men,

Emphasizing that States should continue to adopt and implement legislation and policies in accordance with their obligations under international law, and in particular in accordance with relevant international human rights obligations and with their commitments, which address the issue of violence against women and girls in a comprehensive manner, not only by criminalizing violence against women and girls, providing for the prosecution of perpetrators and holding them accountable, but also by including protection and preventive measures and access to just and effective remedies for victims and survivors, with provisions for adequate funding for their implementation,

Stressing that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote, protect and respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and girls, eliminate impunity and provide for effective access to appropriate remedies for victims and survivors, and should ensure the protection of women and girls, including adequate enforcement of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and the provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, health-care and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, to promote an empowering environment, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls subjected to violence,

Welcoming the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations, national human rights institutions where they exist, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, organizations active in the family field, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media, and by men and boys, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and recognizing the importance of having open, inclusive and transparent engagement with them in the gender-responsive implementation of local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Stressing the need to fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as allies in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence,

Recognizing the critical contribution of family members in combating violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and that in preventing such violence the family can play an important role,

1. *Calls upon* all States to implement the commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[7]

2. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, including online, and notes the economic and social harm caused by such violence;

3. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits their ability to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms and is rooted in gender inequality, deeply embedded negative social norms and stereotypes, poverty, inequality in the economic, social and cultural spheres and unequal power relations between men and women;

4. *Stresses* that domestic violence can take many different forms, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, economic deprivation and isolation, and neglect, and occurs within the family or domestic unit and generally between current or former partners or individuals who are related through blood or intimacy;

5. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, while recognizing that it is an impediment to the achievement of gender equality and to the full realization of their human rights, and while expressing concern that domestic violence is the most prevalent and least visible form of violence against women and girls and that its consequences are long-lasting and profound and affect many areas in the lives of victims;

6. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation, abuse or impairment of human rights and is a major impediment to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, sustainable development, peace, security and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7. *Urges* States to condemn violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and reaffirms that they should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination and should pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating violence against women as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[8]

8. *Stresses* that, despite the important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as well as on their protection, their empowerment and the provision of services, and should therefore implement laws, policies and programmes for ending all forms of violence against women and girls and monitor and rigorously evaluate their implementation and improve, where possible, their impact, accessibility and effectiveness;

9. *Also stresses* the importance of ensuring that, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in natural disaster situations, the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed, including, as appropriate, through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, the removal of barriers to women's access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms and the provision of support to victims and survivors;

10. *Further stresses* the need to leave no one behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in this regard recognizes the challenges faced by refugee and migrant women and girls and the need to protect and empower them, including in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and the need to strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, and underscores the importance of development support for those communities, particularly in developing countries;

11. *Stresses* the need to address discrimination based on multiple and intersecting factors, which places women and girls at greater risk of exploitation, violence and abuse, and to take appropriate action to empower and protect them;

12. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, can take the form of an isolated act or pattern of abusive behaviour that may occur over a period of time, which as a pattern constitutes violence against women and girls, and can occur in digital and online spaces and include cyberbullying and cyberstalking;

13. *Notes* that efforts by civil society organizations in eliminating violence against women, including domestic violence, can be complementary to those of Governments, and in this regard urges States to support, where possible, initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and at preventing, responding to and protecting women and girls from domestic violence;

14. *Calls upon* States to take effective action to prevent and eliminate domestic violence without delay, including by:

(a) Adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits domestic violence and adequately penalizes offences involving physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence occurring in families, and establishing adequate legal protection against such violence, including victim and witness protection from reprisals for bringing complaints or giving evidence;

(b) Preventing violations and taking steps to prevent abuses of all human rights of women and girls, devoting particular attention to abolishing practices and legislation that discriminate against women and girls, including, as applicable,

provisions in civil, criminal and personal status law governing marriage and family relations, eliminating prejudices, harmful practices and gender stereotypes and raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, at all levels throughout their life course;

(c) Accelerating efforts to develop, review and strengthen inclusive and gender-responsive policies, including by allocating adequate resources, to address the structural and underlying causes of domestic violence against women and girls, to overcome gender stereotypes and negative social norms, to encourage the media to examine the impact of gender-role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, that foster gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and inequalities, to promote zero tolerance for such violence and to remove the stigma of being a victim and survivor of violence, thus creating an enabling and accessible environment where women and girls can easily report incidents of violence and make use of the services available, including protection and assistance programmes;

(d) Taking measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing, adequate and gender- and culturally sensitive training to be aware of gender-specific needs, as well as of the underlying causes and short- and long-term impact of domestic violence;

(e) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, with a view to ensuring access to justice, improving rates of reporting and addressing the high attrition rate from reporting to conviction, and reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, with a focus on prevention and the protection of women and accessible and effective redress for victims;

(f) Ensuring the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] the Beijing Platform for Action[9] and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

15. *Urges* States to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors so as to prevent domestic violence, including by:

(a) Investing in the full realization of the right to education by, inter alia, eliminating illiteracy, developing equitable, quality, inclusive and gender-sensitive educational programmes, in particular in rural and remote areas, and by closing the gender gap at all levels of education, thereby ensuring that women and men and girls and boys are portrayed in positive, non-stereotypical roles and contributing to the empowerment of women and girls and to the elimination of domestic violence and all other forms of violence against women and girls;

(b) Emphasizing the important role that men and boys can play in preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and further developing and implementing measures that reinforce non-violent actions, attitudes and values and encourage men and boys to take an active part and become strategic partners and allies in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, in order to break intergenerational cycles of violence;

(c) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls occurring in public or private life and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, inter alia through the regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns nationwide and other ways to promote prevention and protection and the transformation of discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, as part of an integrated prevention strategy;

(d) Taking measures to empower women by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and ensuring their full and equal participation in society and in decision-making processes by adopting and implementing social and economic policies that guarantee women full and equal access to quality education, and training and affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as full and equal access to financial resources and decent work, and full and equal rights to own and have access to and control over land and other property, and guaranteeing women's and girls' inheritance rights, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(e) Adopting all appropriate measures in the field of education to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, harmful customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, in the public and private spheres;

(f) Committing themselves to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to

enable them to build self-esteem, informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young people, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to end domestic violence;

(g) Preventing, combating and eliminating trafficking in women and girls by criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons, as well as by raising public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and eliminating the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation and forced labour, and encouraging, where appropriate, the media to play a role with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children;

16. *Also urges* States to take effective action to protect victims of all forms of violence, including domestic violence, including by:

(a) Providing relevant, comprehensive and victim-centred legal protection to support and assist victims of domestic violence in a gender-sensitive manner, within the framework of their national legal systems, including, as appropriate, legislative or other measures throughout the criminal and civil justice system;

(b) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses for all victims and survivors of all forms of violence, including domestic violence, that are adequately resourced, include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, such as the police and the justice sector, as well as providers of legal aid services, health-care services, medical and psychological assistance, counselling services and protection, and, in cases of girl victims, ensure that such services, programmes and responses take into account the best interests of the child;

(c) Providing for access to appropriate remedies for victims and survivors, and ensuring the protection and empowerment of women and girls, including through adequate enforcement by the police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions;

(d) Establishing and/or strengthening police and health workers' response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of domestic violence, to identify acts of violence and to prevent further acts of violence and psychological harm, taking into account the need to ensure and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the victim;

(e) Putting in place measures, and where they exist, expanding such measures, in order to ensure the availability and accessibility for victims and survivors and their children of services, programmes and opportunities for their full recovery and reintegration into society, as well as full access to justice, and ensuring the provision of adequate and timely information on available support services and legal measures, when possible in a language that they understand and in which they can communicate;

17. *Encourages* States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant parameters, including, where appropriate, administrative data from the police, the health sector and the judiciary, to monitor all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic

violence, such as data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, and geographical location, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, including law enforcement agencies, in order to effectively review and implement laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

18. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

19. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other bodies, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

20. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's Global Database on Violence against Women, expresses its appreciation to all those States that have provided the Database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the Database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the Database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

21. *Acknowledges* the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women and girls;

22. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to prevent and eliminate domestic violence against women and girls;

23. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second and seventy-third sessions;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 69/147 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-first and sixty-second sessions including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 67/144 and 69/147 and the present resolution, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

26. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls at its seventy-third session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

35. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents considered by the General Assembly in connection with the advancement of women

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following documents submitted under the agenda item entitled "Advancement of women":

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;[3]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.[4]

[1] A/71/38.
[2] A/71/209.
[3] A/71/219.
[4] A/71/398.